

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 01519 141129Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9865
INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 1519

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR YO US
SUBJ: US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS

REF: STATE 55271

1. FORMER AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN'S ARTICLE COMING TOGETHER WITH OUR UNILATERAL DEMANDS ON KRSKO, OUR CANDID STATEMENT ON THE YUGOSLAV HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD AND MALCOM BROWNE'S NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE SPECULATING ON GOY NUCLEAR WEAPONS INTENTIONS HAS PLACED A LOT OF HEAVY BAGGAGE ON THE SCALES OF US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS IN THE SPACE OF A FEW DAYS. AT THE SAME TIME IT SEEMS TO US THAT WHITE HOUSE AND STATE WILL BE UNABLE TO INDEFINITELY PUT OFF SOME PUBLIC STATEMENT ABOUT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY TOWARD YUGOSLAVIA-- WHICH COULD IN ITSELF BECOME YET ANOTHER NEW WEIGHT ON OUR RELATIONS.

2. BELIEVE A SIMPLE REITERATION OF OUR SUPPORT FOR YUGOSLAV INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY WILL NOT SUFFICE. RECOMMEND INSTEAD THAT WE RESPOND TO QUESTIONS WITH A FULLER STATEMENT ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:
"FORMER AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN IS A PRIVATE CITIZEN. WE WILL HAVE NO COMMENT ON THE CONTENT OF HIS ARTICLE. THIS
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ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY TOWARD YUGOSLAVIA IS CLEAR. AS WITH MANY NATIONS, OUR RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA ARE A COMPLEX MIXTURE OF COMMON AND CONFLICTING INTERESTS AND VALUES. THE UNITED STATES HAS A FUNDAMENTAL INTEREST IN THE CONTINUED INDEPENDENCE UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF YUGOSLAVIA. THIS IS A POLICY WHICH ALL ADMINISTRATIONS REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL PARTY SINCE PRESIDENT HARRY

TRUMAN HAVE PURSUED AND WHICH THIS ADMINISTRATION WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE. WE ALSO FIND THAT OUR POLICIES CONFLICT AS WELL AS COINCIDE IN MANY INTERNATIONAL FORA AND ON MANY ISSUES. THIS ADMINISTRATION WILL NOT HESITATE TO VIGOROUSLY PURSUE AMERICA'S INTERESTS WITH YUGOSLAVIA AS WITH ANY OTHER NATION. WE WILL SEEK TO MAXIMIZE AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND PARTICULARLY LOOK FORWARD TO AN INTENSIFIED AND COOPERATIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF YUGOSLAVIA ON SUCH ISSUES AS CSCE, DISARMAMENT AND NORTH-SOUTH ECONOMIC CONCERNS IN ALL OF WHICH YUGOSLAVIA PLAYS A MAJOR ROLE."
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Message Attributes

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